



PRESERVING OUR LEGACY **100 YEARS OF CDF** PROTECTING OUR FUTURE

## **CDF FOREST PRACTICE**

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) enforces the laws that regulate logging on privately-owned lands in California. These laws are found in the Forest Practice Act which was enacted in 1973 to ensure that logging was done in a manner that would also preserve our fish, wildlife, forests, streams and other water sources forever. Additional rules enacted by the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection are also enforced to protect these resources.

CDF ensures that private landowners abide by these laws when harvesting trees. Although there are specific exemptions in some cases, compliance with the Forest Practice Act and Board rules apply to all commercial harvesting operations for landowners of small parcels, to ranchers owning hundreds of acres, and large timber companies with thousands of acres.

The Timber Harvesting Plan (THP) is the blueprint submitted by a landowner to CDF outlining what timber they want to harvest, how it will be harvested, and the steps that will be taken to prevent damage to the environment. THPs are prepared by Registered Professional Foresters (RPFs) who are licensed to prepare these complicated, detailed plans. THPs can range from about 100 pages to more than 500 pages.

CDF does not have the authority to deny a THP that is in compliance with state and federal rules and laws, simply because the logging plan is unpopular with the public. CDF staff reviews and approves approximately 600 THPs each year. A THP that does not comply with all forestry and environmental regulations is returned to the RPF. It is only approved after the RPF and landowner agree to make the changes necessary to ensure compliance with all laws. CDF follows-up on approved THPs with site inspections and can shutdown operations, cite or fine Registered Professional Foresters, Licensed Timber Operators (LTOs), and landowners if illegal operations are found.

CDF works in conjunction with the California Department of Fish and Game, California Regional Water Quality Control Board, and the California Geological Survey when reviewing THPs.



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